



# Stormwater Best Management Practices Fact Sheet Series

## Pet Waste

Did you know that waste from pets can pollute our water?



Every time it rains, pet waste that is left on the ground can be washed into storm drains that carry it directly to our rivers and lakes without being treated.

When pet waste is disposed of improperly, not only does it affect water quality, but your health may be at risk.

- Pet waste decays, using up dissolved oxygen and releasing compounds that are harmful to fish and other animals.
- Pet waste may contain bacteria which can cause disease in humans.
- Pet waste contains nutrients that can cause excessive algae growth, leading to cloudy or green water.



## What can you do to prevent pollution?

- Pick up pet waste from your yard
- Carry biodegradable plastic bags while walking your dog to pick up pet waste.
- Dispose of pet waste by:
  - Flushing down the toilet
  - Throwing away in the trash



For additional information or questions, please contact:  
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